

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, William Harold Blair was born on November 7, 1908, to Eugene and Ella Blair at Geddes, South Dakota. He was the second of nine children to be raised on his grandfather's homestead near Geddes; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Bill married Ava Pearl Stoneback in 1937, and to this union four children were born, David, Judy, Roger, and Wayne, who blessed them with four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and,

Whereas, Bill and Ava traveled to Washington State to work in the orchard harvest but returned to the farm in 1939 and formed the Blair Farms partnership with Bill's father and brothers. In 1945, the family made another move to Minneapolis so David could attend school for 9 years until the Crippled Children's School in Sioux Falls opened and the family could return to South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Bill will observe his 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

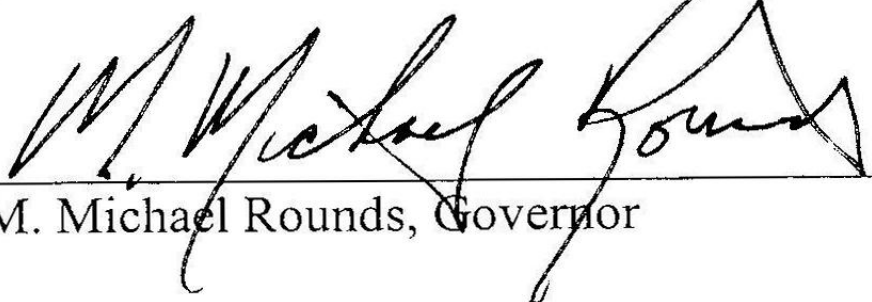
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 7, 2008, as

WILLIAM BLAIR DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his many friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirty-first Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State